

CHENDERIT SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY



Sophie Wilson

I am Chair of Governors and sit on the Resources and Student Families and Communities committees. I joined the governing body in 2018 as a parent governor when my daughter was at Chenderit. Since she left, I have continued to support the school as a community governor.

My professional background is in arts management. I have worked for a wide range of organisations, including the Barber Institute of Fine Arts at the University of Birmingham, Rambert Dance Company and Shakespeare's Globe. Becoming a school governor has enabled me to share my work experience and also to acquire new knowledge and skills. Not surprisingly, I am a passionate advocate of the teaching of arts subjects in schools and I love to hear about Chenderit alumni who are pursuing careers in the creative industries.

I am also a Trustee of Sulgrave Manor and Treasurer of the Friends of the Heseltine Gallery, which I help to run as a community art hub for artists, creatives and students.



Liz Cooper

I am joint Vice Chair and sit on the Resources Committee. I joined as a Parent Governor in April 2023 and have two daughters at Chenderit (Year 10 & Year 12).

My vision is for all pupils to achieve their full potential, be taught by quality and well supported staff, and for the whole school community to thrive in a happy and safe environment.

I am currently a Senior Commercial Manager for one of the 'Big 4' Consulting firms. My professional career experience spans HR; Training & Development, Internal Recruitment, Project Management and strategic Procurement & Category Management. I aim to bring my professional perspectives and knowledge, as well as my experiences as a parent of the school, to positively contribute to the governing board.



Simon Leibling

I am a joint Vice Chair, community governor and a member of the Full Governing Body and the Resources Committee. I became a governor in November 2023. Both my children have attended Chenderit School and have now left - one has graduated from the University of Exeter and the other has graduated from the University of Bath. My wife is a Pastoral Support Manager at Chenderit School and has been working with students for over 14 years.

I became a governor to give something back to the school and to allow me to bring some of my work experience to the Governor group. I am looking forward to getting more involved with helping the school to achieve its targets and deliver great education to all its pupils.



Janette Capehorn

I joined as a parent governor in January 2023 and sit on the Students, Families and Community committee. I have a daughter in year 10 at Chenderit, my son also completed his school years here. Having worked in Apprenticeships and Training for over 20 years I have a passion for developing young people's skills and confidence to give them the best start in life. I'm hoping my experience can help support and contribute to the success of the school.



Henderson Downing

I joined as a parent governor in November 2023. I am currently Joint-Chair of the Teaching & Learning Committee. My professional background is in higher education and local government. I work for West Northamptonshire Council, managing the public libraries in the South Northants area. I am also an A-Level Examiner for Pearson. For ten years I was a Lecturer in English Literature at London South Bank University and at Birkbeck, University of London. As a governor, I aim to utilise my skills and experience to help shape and support the strategic direction of Chenderit School so that it continues to develop and thrive for the benefit of students, staff, and the wider school community.

Born and brought up in Cornwall, since 2010 I have lived a few miles further from the sea in Middleton Cheney. As a firm believer in lifelong learning, I'm fortunate to have a daughter in Year 10 who teaches me something new every single day.



Tyler Jeffs

I became a governor in early 2024 and sit on the Resources committee.

My professional background is in accounting and I specialise in Charities, non profits and Academy Trusts providing expert advice to a range of clients in the sector.

Since early 2022 I have sat as a Trustee on a 4 School Academy Trust based out of Twickenham but with schools in Didcot. I am currently the chair of their Operations and Finance Committee. Locally I am also very heavily involved with the Royal British Legion, being the chair of the village branch and Scouting where I am Deputy District Commissioner for the South Northamptonshire area.



Jacqueline O'Neill

I will be joining Chenderit School as a Parent Governor in early 2026, bringing over 24 years of experience at Elsevier, part of RELX global organisation. My background includes technology delivery, vendor management, software testing, and project management, with a focus on delivering reliable outcomes. I'm used to managing risk, working with data, and aligning stakeholders — skills that translate well into effective school governance.

My son joined Chenderit in Year 10 after moving from another local secondary school and is now in Year 12 studying A-levels. Seeing how excellent teaching, mutual respect, and a nurturing environment helped him thrive motivates my commitment to supporting the school community.

I bring a straightforward, solutions-focused approach and a strong belief in fairness and transparency. On a personal note, I have a dry sense of humour, a strong sense of justice, and a serious relationship with tea. Outside work, you'll find me baking or standing on the side of a cold rugby pitch.



Dr Kristopher Reeder

I am proud to have been appointed a governor at Chenderit School in 2026 and intend to work hard to ensure that Chenderit School develops into a vibrant, diverse and inclusive community where everyone is empowered to become change makers within a respectful and dynamic environment.

I am a highly experienced music teacher/leader/teacher trainer, nationally recognised Jazz pioneer / professional bass trombonist, academic researcher and committed NEU Rep. I am passionate about music and arts and believe that a strong, diverse, well funded arts provision in schools is an essential part of developing a diverse, healthy and creative society. I also believe that every child can find their creative voice and that all schools must work relentlessly to ensure that this becomes a reality.

I hold a Ph.D in Bass Trombone improvisation which was awarded following the submission of a ground breaking body of sound work. I have 2 daughters who attend Chenderit School and I live in Middleton Cheney.

I sit on the teaching and learning committee. I enjoy trying to solve extremely complex problems.



Billy Belstone

As part of the Chenderit teaching staff, I sit on the board of governors as a staff governor and the Leadership Team link to the Students, Families and Community committee. I have been teaching Geography since 2012 after graduating from the University of Southampton, and I have taken on many different roles in middle and senior leadership positions over the past ten years such as Head of Department, Head of Sixth Form and Assistant Headteacher.

I am currently the schools Deputy Headteacher in charge of pastoral work and behaviour, and the experiences I have gained in each of these roles have given me a good insight into many areas of the school community, which helps me to contribute to discussions and forward planning.

As I have previously said, I work as the Leadership Team link to the Students, Families and Community committee, and we discuss a variety of issues in regards to students such as achievements, behaviour, wellbeing and safeguarding, as well as the support we give to families and the wider community to keep students safe and well prepared for life in modern Britain.



Joanne Dowden

I've been a school governor since September 2014 and serve on the board of governors as a staff governor. I am Head of Year 11 and I teach A level and GCSE Business Studies. In addition to supporting the Full Governing Body, I serve on the Teaching and Learning subcommittee having supported the work of our Student, Families and Community subcommittee for the past 10 years.

As well as being a governor and teacher at Chenderit, I am a Mum to three daughters, all of whom have attended Chenderit School.

Prior to Governance and Teaching, previous roles include managing a youth and community centre, holding the position of DSL and child protection manager and Senior community development worker.

My passions are realised through the development of purposeful relationships, enabling our positive community culture and ethos and securing clarity about our vision and strategic direction.

I am a proud member of team Chenderit and look forward to continuing to serve our school community this academic year.



Tony Vickers

I am delighted to become a staff governor for the first time and look forward to the role and making a positive contribution to the governance of the school.

I am Head of PE/PD and responsible for school sport. I first joined Chenderit School in September 2001 fresh from 4 years in Leeds at University, my initial intention was to complete my induction year to become a fully qualified teacher and maybe move back up north after - I'm still here! The school has been both my place of work and passion for over 20 years now, I have taught 1000's of young people & am now teaching their young people which makes me feel very old with each new Y7 intake.

I am an aging but active sportsperson who still plays cricket and have worked consistently towards Chenderit School achieving the highest Gold standard as recognised by the Youth Sport Trust for our PE and School Sport offer in the last year.

I will sit on the Students, Families and Community committee and use my experience and day to day insight to ensure that our mission statement is aspired to for all, working towards building lasting wellbeing for all stakeholders in our community.